



# CATS

# NEWSLETTER

The Official Journal of the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group

## **Presidential Ramblings**

Our August meeting attendees gave George Rey a rousing welcome for his presentation on Wills and Trusts. Everyone was happy that he could quickly take over for our scheduled speaker, Tom Robbins, who was unable to attend because of his work requirements.

NOTE: our September meeting will be on the 14th, not on the 7th as printed in our August newsletter. I am sure that this item will appear in three other places in this (Sept) newsletter. Right Tim? We will meet at the Hyattsville Library. See directions elsewhere in this NL.

We will have a picnic! Our picnic will be held at Bob and Betty Digg's place in Northeast, MD. They have been so very kind to invite us there on September 28, 1991. They have quite list of sports activities available - tennis, golf (small course), boating (Sunfish sailboat), and swimming (for the brave). Bring your own food, drink, charcoal grill (if you need to), and lawn chairs. Bob says noon is OK to start. The map that we used last year is on one of the following pages.

We will have a swap shop at the picnic, and auction if people bring enough stuff. We have put the word out to members and ex-members to bring (or send) Timex/Sinclair related items that they may wish to sell. Do you know anyone else who wants to unload some equipment? Let them know. They are welcome at the picnic. Please, everyone label all items for sale with the price

that you want, and any negotiation (or auctioning) instructions. At the auction, we still have to decide what commission will be contributed to CATS' treasury. Did you talk your friend or neighbor into a 2068 or QL? Did they lose interest? Here's their chance to unload. Let them know! They don't get this newsletter!

We took care of just a couple items in our executive board and membership meetings. First, Joe Miller caught our recording secretary duties (we need those minutes, Joe!). We elected Stan Guttenberg as our third "Member-at-Large" member of the executive board. Welcome, Stan! Of course, we approved the picnic date and place.

Mannie still needs programs - he has one scheduled - see the notice within. Put something together for him! He'll put you on the schedule.

Our hardware session had some active participants - I was busy with planning. Check with Stan, Herb, and Cliff for their latest projects. Herb Schaaf again polled the membership for data on QL crashes (good, bad, & uh) - he will soon find the secret to keeping them running.

Tim Swenson is checking into a group buy of QL keyboard interfaces. See, or call him, if you might want one of these.

Miracle's Gold Card recently appeared on the market. Dick Parker (no relation) reported that he traded his Trump Card in for this new disk-interface-memory-CPU

## NOTICE!!!

**This Month's Meeting is  
on the 14TH of August,  
At HYATTSVILLE!**

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## Key Dates

### **14 September: CATS Meeting**

11:00 Workshop

1:30 Executive Board Meeting

2:00 General Meeting

**23 September: Newsletter Deadline  
For the Next Issue**

**12 October: CATS Meeting**

## Next Meeting:

Tim Swenson and Bob Curnutt  
will discuss how the Newsletter goes  
from your submission to your mailbox  
Tim will discuss formatting and paste-  
-up, and Bob will discuss printing and  
mailing.

upgrade. He stated that it lives  
up to it's notices - its fast, has  
all that useable memory, and  
supports all those disk drives.  
Dick, next you need to test our QL  
benchmark programs! (PS: Dick  
also has the only QL, that I have  
heard of, that has yet to lock-up  
or crash! It is not specially  
modified either.)

Audrey and Bob Curnutt will  
represent CATS at the Dayton, OH  
Computer Fest in August. Ruth  
Fegley also plans to attend. We  
look forward to any news in  
September, from you three.

Bits and Bytes: If you have  
any interest in QL programming -  
get "The QL Hacker's Journal" from  
Tim Swenson. He puts together a  
super periodical. All he wants is  
a contribution, programs, that is.  
We should give him other support.  
I just wish that I could find time  
to write software!

I am half-way through  
Scientific American's special  
issue on "Communications,  
Computers, and Networks". They  
talk about the computers and  
networks of the near future with  
super capabilities - gigabits per  
second transmission rates of data.  
Just think, that 75 Kbyte file  
that took me over ten minutes to  
transfer at 1200 baud last week,  
could be transmitted in less than  
0.0008 seconds (0.8 millisecond)  
at a gigabit/sec. rate! Not only  
that, the technology is almost  
here - a system called Synchronous  
Optical Network supports speeds of  
51 million to 2.4 billion  
bits/sec., now!

## From The Editor:

The first thing I have to say is: I WAS WRONG! Last month I posted a notice that the next CATS meeting would be on the 7th of August. The Curnutt's then informed me that I had published the August meeting as being on the 14th, way back in January. My original date stands: the 14th.

I have no idea of how I came up with the 7th. I guess in taking the dates from the January issue to my calendar I made a slight error. Thanks go to the Curnutts for catching the mistake.

This month's issue is smaller than most. Last month I got too many articles to fit in one newsletter. This month I recieved no new articles, all I have is the article "left-over" from last month (long as it may be).

So I am now out of articles for the next issue. This means that I HOPE that some of you will take keyboard in lap and bang out some more articles. Sit down for a few moments and try to brainstorm a few articles. If you come up with some good ideas, but do not have the knowledge on the subject, bring it up at one of the meetings. I'm sure someone will volunteer to give it a shot.

Remember, this is your group. We seem to be doing well on financial support, but a bit lacking on physical support. Help out by writing an article.

(Now I feel like a PBS station, always going on about support.)

One little thing of note: a while back I picked up a SpecDrum for the Spectrum. Only just this month have I tried it out. After many minutes of loading the software, hooking the output from the SpecDrum to a stereo (I used a "boombox"), I was able to run the demonstration rythums that it came with.

I was amazed at the quality of the drum sounds that the SpecDrum could make. My wife has an electronic keyboard with built in rythums. The SpecDrum far out shines the keyboard. It sounds as good as those dedicated drum machines that Casio, etc, make.

When this first came out a few years ago, I am sure that those Spectrum owners that were into music loved it.

That's about all I have to type this month. In closing I'll just say that it's down to 6 weeks and counting until "baby day". If you don't see me at the Picnic, you'll know baby was not going to wait.

Happy Hacking,

Tika

## Auditor's Report

To whom it may concern:

We have examined the Treasurer's Report and the accounts of the Capital Area Timex Sinclair User's Group for the period of July 1, 1990 through June 30, 1991. Spot checks of the reciepts, checks and deposits show the accounts to be consistent and accurate.

The Treasurer's "Source & Application of Funds" was consise and clear.

s/Philip W. Barnhard  
s/Edward C. Svendsen

# Silicon Grease Pit

By Mark Fisher

"As the sun beats down, high above the roof..." the song says. And those of us that are shade tree mechanics slide out from behind keyboards to retire to the graceful confines of the underside of cars.

Let's see now, I changed the oil last March, didn't I? Or was it May? And didn't the manual say that I should be checking the Flammitz every 2245 miles or the Potowski will self-destruct at a cost of \$500.00?

It's easy enough to read through the manual each time you are motivated to smear grease on yourself, but for me at least the prospect of dealing with the awkwardly assembled lists of potential maintenance procedures makes the entire procedure even less attractive - and yet extending the "maintenance intervals" on my car.

If only I could get some genie to skim the list, and tell me only those things that needed doing today. I might check the list more often. Hmmm... that's a job for Archive! And here it is:

The files accumulated in this program are:

car\_prg : The Archive template itself - shown below.

car\_dbf : A "Master list" of car maintenance files. You don't have just one car do you? Only in America....

xxx\_dbf, yyy\_dbf, zzz\_dbf : The individual files containing records for each car.

There are no custom screens, etc.; I've used the defaults as much as possible.

After typing in the program, type "boot". This will establish the first database file, and allow you to fill out your "Master list" of cars. Next type "start" to set up the program for regular

operation, and "task" to add maintenance records for each operation your manual mentions.

In normal operation, you'll just type "run 'car'" and follow the prompts. You can list jobs to do to the printer for a permanent record, or just a reminder while you're under the car. You can also Update your maintenance list, automatically entering the date and mileage when it was done. When you are just starting out, you may want to "backdate" some items - use 'set' to adjust the default date and mileage to the desired value. Facilities for maintaining the maintenance list are also provided

Leave me a message on the BBS as to what you liked and how it might be improved! MTF

```
proc boot
  create "car":auto$: endcreate
  car
endproc
```

```
proc car
  error closeall
  cls : print "Add/Delete
Maintenance file": print
  open "car": spoolon screen :
  dump : spooloff
  print "Enter car name. If it
  duplicates a current entry, you
  will be asked if you wish to DELETE
  it. "
  input a$: find a$
  if found()
    display
    while found()
      sprint : print ink
      2;"Delete this? (Y/N)"
      if upper(getkey())="Y"
        delete
      endif
      continue
    endwhile
  close : return
else
  let auto$=a$: append : close
  create a$
  task$
  mile
  wait
  mile_wk
  date_wk$
  desc$
```

```

x
y
endcreate
order mile;a,task$a;
endif
endproc

proc closeall
while 1
close
endwhile
endproc

proc d
spoolon screen
dump ;task$,mile,desc$
spooloff
endproc

proc e
edit
endproc

proc h
if a$="W"
print "(Press any key to
continue)"
let a$=getkey()
endif
cls : print "Options are:"
print "'car' (Add/Delete Maint.
FILE for a particular car.)"
print "'task' (Add/Change/Delete
maint. task for given car.)"
print "'L' (list pending Maint.
tasks)"
print "'U' (Update Maint. list)"
print "'X' (Kill old and create
new backup on same disk.)"
print
print "'set' (Change default date
and mileage)"
print "'H' (Show this file)"
print
print ink 2;"USE "; ink 6;"QUIT /
CLOSE"; ink 2;" BEFORE ENDING
SESSION!!!!"
endproc

proc L
cls : reset
select ((mi_now-mile_wk)>mile)
or (days( date_now$ )- days(
date_wk$) > wait) order mile;
a,task$a;
if count()
print "Output to (S)creen or
(P)rinter? "
let a$=upper(getkey())
if a$<>"P"

```

```

spoolon screen
endif
lprint "Pending Maintance on
";autos$," as of ";date_now$,"
assuming";mi_now;" miles on
vehicle."
dump ;task$,mile,desc$
spooloff
else : print "Take the day
off!"
endif
let a$="W":h
endproc

proc set
print "Press <ENTER> to set
date to: ";date(2);", or enter
alternate"
print "date in YYYY/MM/DD
format."
input date_now$: print
if date_now$="": let
date_now$=date(0): endif
print "What is the ";autos$;"s
current mileage?"
input "Mileage = ";mi_now
let a$="Go":h
endproc

proc start
cls : error closeall
print "Car Maintainance
Program": print
lock "car": spoolon screen :
dump : spooloff
input "Check on which car?
";autos$
close : print
open autos$
set
endproc

proc task
cls : let a$=""
print "(A)dd, (C)hange,
(D)elete task or (Q)uit."
let a$=upper(getkey())
if a$="A"
task_a: endif
if a$="C"
task_c: endif
if a$="D"
task_d: endif
h
endproc

proc task_a
print "Current entries are:"
d
insert

```

```

task_ad
endproc

proc task_ad
  search date_wk$=""
  while found()
    print "Updating #";recnum()
    let date_wk$=date_now$ :
update : continue
  endwhile
endproc

proc task_c
  task_find : alter
endproc

proc task_d
  task_find
  print ink 2;"DELETE THIS? ";
  if upper(getkey())="Y"
    delete : endif
  endif
endproc

proc task_find
  input "What task ";a$ : find
a$
  while found()
    if found()
      display : sprint
      print "Record
#";recnum();" Correct record?
(Y/N/Q)"
      if upper(getkey())="Y" :
return
      else : continue
      endif
      if upper(getkey())="Q"
        return : endif
      else
        print a$;" not found.
Check spelling, or use 'reset' &
'd' to dump full listing"
      endif
    endwhile
  endwhile
endproc

proc U
  cls : print autos;" Pending
Maintenance"
  print "For each entry, you may
: (U)pdate it to ";mi_now;"
miles and ";date_now$
  print tab 25;"(Q)uit"
  print tab 25;"(Press any other
key to skip this entry.)"
  select ((mi_now-mile_wk)>mile)
or (days(date_now$)-days(
date_wk$)>wait)
  first
  while not eof()

```

```

    print recnum();" ";tasks$;"
Last wk'd on at ";mile_wk;" mi.,
on ";date_wk$; tab 60;desc$
    print "----> (U/Q/' ')"
    let a$=upper(getkey())
    if a$="U"
      print "Recording last
maintained on ";date_now$;" at"
      ;mi_now;" miles."
      let mile_wk=mi_now
      let date_wk$=date_now$
      update
      endif
      if a$="Q": reset : return :
endif
    next
  endwhile
  print "That's it!"
  reset
  let a$="W":h
endproc

proc X
  cls
  print ink 2;"This procedure
will destroy ";autos;"_bak and
_dbf. PROCEED?
(Y/Q)"
  if upper(getkey())="Y"
    error closeall
    let d$="flpl_"
    kill d$+autos+"_Bak"
    backup d$+autos+"_dbf" as
d$+autos+"_bak"
    kill d$+autos+"_dbf"
    backup d$+autos+"_bak" as
d$+autos+"_dbf"
    endif
  endif
endproc

```

## Last Meeting Subject

George Rey, filling in quickly after the planned speaker could not attend, gave a summary talk on his long-running Newsletter articles on Estate Planning.

George summed up the topics mentioned in his article with emphasis on trusts. George brought in some materials that were the basis of his articles. He briefly covered his experiences with courses and books on Estate Planning.

A good portion of the session was spent answering questions from the group and members of the group sharing their feelings and experiences.

George did cover sources of good information on Estate Planning. Some are covered in his articles. For more, get in touch with George at a future meeting.

### Directions to Hyattsville

If taking 495 or 95:

1. Exit southbound on Route 1.
2. Turn right on Highway 410 (Riverdale Rd) (15th light).

If Taking B-W Parkway:

1. Exit Westbound on Highway 410.

Once on Highway 410:

3. Turn right onto Adelphi Rd (6th light).
4. Turn left onto Toledo Rd.
5. Library is on the left.

Meeting room is the first door on the left, upon entering the library. Be carefull since some of these turn come very quickly. Bring quarters if parking on Toledo Rd.

### **The News is Out! And We're Spreading It!**

RMG is adding so many NEW and EXCITING TIMES to our line that our storerooms are BULGING! We have added more than 25 NEW PAGES and changed over 20 others in our BIG 40+ page catalog. We want to make sure that you do not miss jour on anything we may be able to help you with in your computing.

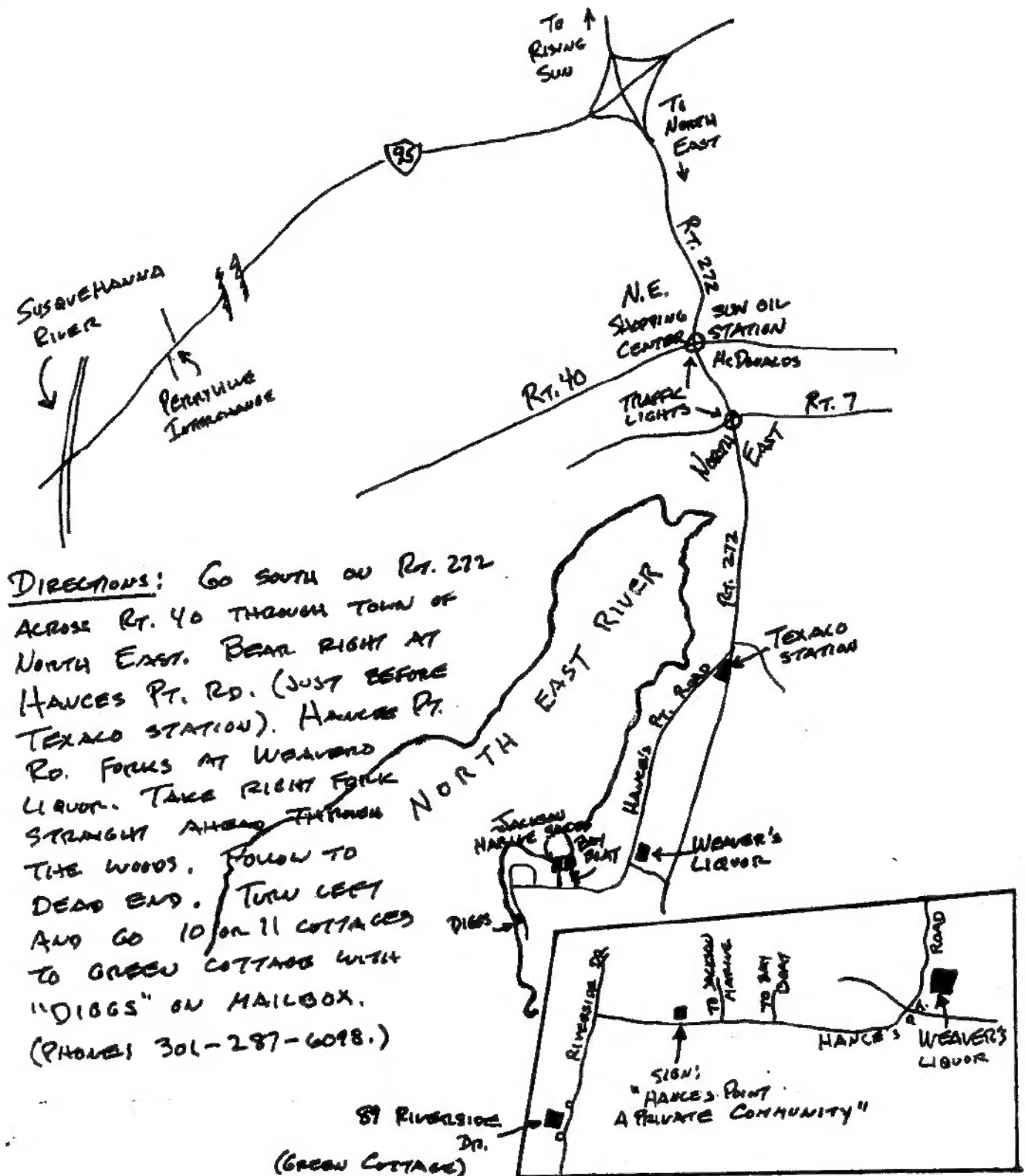
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# How to Find Your Way to the CATS Picnic...





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CATS maintains a gratis exchange of newsletters with approximately 30 Users Groups across the U.S. and Canada. Groups not sending a newsletter to us for six months are automatically taken off the list.

Newsletter Editor & Contact Person (703)820-6657

Ruth Fegley  
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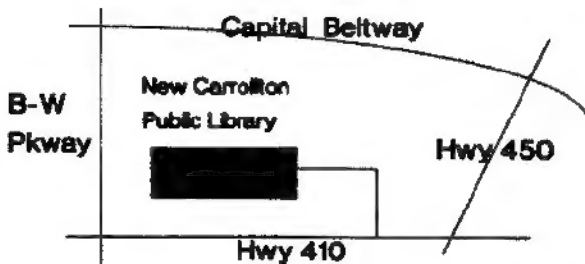
Duane Parker  
President

## Executive Board

The Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group is a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

# FIRST CLASS MAIL

CATS Newsletter  
P.O. Box 11017  
Takoma Park, MD 20913



Next meeting of CATS will be held on: September 14, 1991

11:00 AM Hardware Workshop

2:00 PM General Meeting

**This Month's Meeting is on the 14TH at HYATTSVILLE!**

CATS BBS: (301) 588-0579. 8-N-1. 300/1200 baud. News and general information, 24 hours a day.

Timex SIG on CompuServe: Wednesday night, 10:00 PM Eastern time (GO CLUB).

## Networks

per year.

Memberships cost \$15 per year, are good for 12 months, and include all privileges (access to libraries, group buys, etc.). A newsletter only subscription is available for persons living outside the Washington Metro area and is \$12

## Newsletter

Monthly meetings are held from 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM, on the second Saturday of each month, at the New Carrollton Public Library.

## Meetings